

BASIC FOOD EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (BFET)



Basic Food Employment & Training, or BFET, is a program which can help Washington SNAP recipients gain skills and secure employment. It can also help community college students who would otherwise be ineligible for SNAP to qualify. BFET services are provided by all community and technical colleges in Washington.

How can BFET help me qualify for SNAP?

College students are required to meet work requirements to be eligible for SNAP, on top of general eligibility criteria. One of the options to meet the work requirement is enrollment in career-focused education or job training through BFET. In Washington, many community college certificate and degree programs meet this requirement. The list of eligible programs varies by school, but includes many career-oriented tracks.

Each school's BFET office can screen students for SNAP eligibility and provide a referral to DSHS documenting that you will enroll in BFET once you begin receiving SNAP and should therefore be counted as meeting SNAP work requirements.

Those who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or food benefits through the Food Assistance Program for legal permanent residents are not eligible for BFET.

What services can BFET provide?

In addition to helping students qualify for SNAP, some BFET offices are able to provide additional resources to support you through your education, such as textbooks, work clothing, personal protective equipment, childcare, tuition assistance, and more. Services vary by school.

How do I get started?

Find out if BFET is available to you and get connected with someone at your school who can help you with next steps with [this survey](#).

You can also contact a BFET program coordinator at your school directly. Contact information can be found [here](#).

Students who are interested in pursuing BFET as a route to SNAP eligibility should contact their school's BFET office first, before submitting a SNAP application through DSHS.